



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

Assembly Bill 469
Testimony for the Urban and Local Affairs Committee
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Madam Chairwoman, members of the committee, thanks for allowing me to testify here today. At the request of a constituent in my district, I have introduced Assembly Bill 469. AB 469 permits municipalities in Wisconsin to adopt an ordinance allowing the municipality to reserve specific parking spaces on streets to specific handicapped individuals.

Parking is a struggle for many of the residents on Milwaukee's East Side, Downtown and Bay View Neighborhoods. Finding an available handicapped space close to their residence is even more difficult. Many of the spots in high-traffic, high-population areas are taken and this forces handicapped persons to sometimes have to walk long distances to get from their vehicle to their homes. This contradicts the purpose of having handicapped spaces in the first place.

During the course of drafting this legislation, I have investigated the overall issue of handicapped parking in Milwaukee. I have discovered that there are many problems associated with handicapped parking that negatively affect those who live and work in Milwaukee. It seems that many of the problems stem from the abuse of the handicap identification cards that are issued by the State of Wisconsin.

To help get an overall picture of our system of handicapped parking and other issues related to parking here in Wisconsin, I have requested that the Wisconsin Legislative Council conduct an interim study to look at both handicapped parking and how Wisconsin regulates parking overall. It is my hope that this study will produce a comprehensive piece of legislation aimed at alleviating many of the problems that I have heard from officials at the City of Milwaukee and those constituents who have contacted my office about how difficult parking in Milwaukee is. Thank you.

